



White House's new, \$1.7T infrastructure offer panned by GOP

By LISA MASCARO and JONATHAN LEMIRE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House put forward a \$1.7 trillion infrastructure counteroffer Friday to Senate Republicans, dropping from President Joe Biden's sweeping \$2.3 trillion proposal "in the spirit of finding common ground."

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki disclosed the new offer as talks were still underway between key Cabinet secretaries and GOP senators at a crucial stage toward a deal. Skepticism had been rising on all sides amid complaints about the lack of significant movement off the opening bids. Republicans had offered a \$568 billion plan.

"This proposal exhibits a willingness to come down in

size," she said at the press briefing.

According to a memo obtained by The Associated Press, the administration is cutting more than \$550 billion from the president's initial offer.

But the memo makes clear Biden is not interested in the Republicans' idea of having consumers pay for the new investments through tolls, gas taxes or other fees. Instead, the administration is sticking with his proposal to raise the corporate tax to pay for the new investment, which is a red line for Republicans.

"Our approach should ensure that corporations are paying their fair share," said the memo from the administration's negotiators to the GOP senators.

Continued on next page



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A concrete pump frames the Capitol Dome during renovations and repairs to Lower Senate Park on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

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District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, left, and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, right, visit the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge construction site in together with Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, in southeast Washington, Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Associated Press

Continued from Front

The White House and Republican senators have been in talks ever since Biden met with a core group of Republican negotiators over the possibility of working together on an infrastructure plan. The White House dispatched the transportation and commerce secretaries and top aides to Capitol Hill to meet with the Republicans earlier this week, and they had a follow up video-call Friday.

The more than hour-long meeting was constructive and hopeful, said two administration officials granted anonymity to discuss the private talks.

But Republicans dismissed the new White House offer as "disappointing," according to a GOP aide familiar with the meeting and permitted anonymity to discuss it.

The Republicans viewed the changed approach as "very marginal movement" on the topline and without much difference in policy, the aide said.

The slog of the negotiations is certain to mean new worries from Democrats that time is slipping to strike a compromise. The president's team is holding to a soft Memorial Day deadline it had set to determine whether a deal was within reach.

Psaki said the new proposal drops the president's proposed expenditures on broadband as well as roads, bridges and other major investments to meet the Republicans' lower level. She said the administration's proposal also involved "shifting investments in research and development, supply chains, manufacturing and small business" out of the infrastructure talks, since they could be considered elsewhere, noting in Endless Frontiers Act, which is a separate bipartisan bill pending in the Senate.

But Psaki said the president's team is still pushing for investments in new veterans hospitals, rail projects and green energy investments to fight climate

change that Republicans have excluded from their offers.

In all, the White House cut broadband from \$100 billion to \$65 billion, as Republicans proposed. It also reduced road and bridges spending by \$39 billion, from \$159 billion to \$120 billion, to move closer to the GOP's proposal of \$48 billion in new funds.

Removing the research and development funds would cut a whopping \$480 billion, the aides said. The White House characterized the GOP's initial \$568 billion "Roadmap" proposal as amounting to an estimated \$175 billion to \$225 billion in "new investment, above current levels Congress has traditionally funded," according to the memo.

The GOP senators have not publicly disclosed their latest offer.

Securing a vast infrastructure plan is Biden's top priority as he seeks to make good on his campaign pledge to "build back better" in the aftermath of the

coronavirus crisis and the economic churn from a shifting economy. With narrow Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, the president is reaching out to Republicans for support on a potentially bipartisan approach rather than relying simply on his own party to muscle the proposal to passage. But Republicans are refusing Biden's idea of a corporate tax increase to pay for the package.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Thursday on Fox News that higher taxes on corporations or the wealthiest Americans are nonstarters. Republicans are unwilling to undo the 2017 tax cuts, the party's signature domestic accomplishment under President Donald Trump. They reduced the corporate rate from 35% to 21%. Biden proposes lifting the corporate tax to 28%.

"If they're willing to settle on target a infrastructure bill without revisiting the 2017 tax bill we'll work with them," McConnell told Fox's Larry Kudlow, a former Trump adviser. But McConnell, R-Ky., said a package topping \$2 trillion or more "is not going to have any Republican support."

The new offer from the White House was intended to make a good faith effort at compromise, and to

prod Republicans to put a more substantive counter-offer on the table, the officials said.

In earlier talks, latest offer from GOP lawmakers left some dismay in the administration that there wasn't more movement from their initial \$568 billion proposal. The White House's hopes for a bipartisan deal on infrastructure have cooled but they have not abandoned the effort, one of the officials said.

Biden has reveled in the face-to-face negotiations, aides said, and has expressed hope to bring Republicans along. West Wing officials have been hearted by the public comments made by some of the GOP negotiating team, including Capito, the official said.

But the outward talks of progress have not translated into the two sides getting much closer to a deal. Beyond the significant gap in the two sides' visions for the size of the package, there has been little discussion of how to reach an agreement on how to pay for it.

One GOP senator in the talks suggested tapping unspent funds from the massive COVID-19 aid package to help pay for the infrastructure investment. Other funds could be tapped from uncollected tax revenues or public-private partnerships.

One strategy that had gained momentum would be for Biden to negotiate a more limited, traditional infrastructure bill of roads, highways, bridges and broadband as a bipartisan effort. Then, Democrats could try to muscle through the remainder of Biden's priorities on climate investments and the so-called human infrastructure of child care, education and hospitals on their own.

But, administration aides believe, if such an "infrastructure only" bipartisan deal is far smaller than Biden's original proposal, the White House risks a rebellion from Democrats who could claim that the president made a bad deal and missed the moment to pass a sweeping, transformational package. □



Wyoming senator discloses impregnating 14-year-old at 18

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Wyoming state Sen. Anthony Bouchard, a Republican trying to unseat U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney next year, disclosed that he impregnated a 14-year-old girl when he was 18, describing the relationship as "like the Romeo and Juliet" story and saying it was coming to light because of "dirty politics."

Bouchard initially disclosed what he described as a typical teenage relationship in a Facebook Live video to supporters Thursday. He later confirmed the girl's age to the Casper Star-Tribune.

"So, bottom line, it's a story when I was young, two teenagers, girl gets pregnant," he said in the video. "You've heard those stories before. She was a little younger than me, so it's like the Romeo and Juliet story." Bouchard married the girl when she was 15 and he was 19, when both were

living in Florida. They divorced three years later, he told the newspaper.

Bouchard's ex-wife killed herself when she was 20, he said. Online records list a woman with her name as being buried at a Jacksonville, Florida, cemetery in 1990.

The newspaper chose not to identify the woman.

Bouchard did not immediately return a phone call by The Associated Press seeking comment.

Kristen Schwartz, executive director for the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault said laws exist to protect young people involved in these situations. "There's a reason we have laws against sexual abuse of a minor and it's because the brain of a 14-year-old is not developed enough to make mature decisions about sex and sexuality," Schwartz said.

Schwartz added that fram-



In this Jan. 12, 2021, file photo, Sen. Anthony Bouchard, R-Cheyenne, chats with Wyoming State Troopers while taking a break during a virtual session of the 66th Wyoming Legislature inside the Senate chamber in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Associated Press

ing it as Romeo and Juliet is wrong.

"Any language that would minimize things that are a crime is harmful. It's harmful to survivors and it's harmful to our greater community," she said.

Bouchard is among at least eight Republicans running against Cheney in 2022

after her vote to impeach former President Donald Trump for the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Bouchard said he decided to post the video to get ahead of a story about his previous marriage. In the video, Bouchard claims an unnamed reporter and a "political opposition re-

search company" were driving the effort together. Bouchard said he didn't think Cheney was involved in the disclosure and Cheney spokesman Jeremy Adler denied any involvement.

Bouchard and the girl were able to legally marry because Florida at the time allowed marriage at any age with a judge's approval if a pregnancy was involved and a parent consented.

"A lot of pressure. Pressure to abort a baby. I got to tell you. I wasn't going to do it, and neither was she," Bouchard said. "And there was pressure to have her banished from their family. Just pressure. Pressure to go hide somewhere. And the only thing I could see as the right thing to do was to get married and take care of him." His son has become "almost" estranged from him after making "some wrong choices in his life," Bouchard said. □

CNN: Trump Justice Department seized reporter phone records

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration Justice Department secretly obtained the 2017 phone records of a CNN correspondent, the network said Thursday in revealing the existence of another apparent leak investigation aimed at identifying a journalist's sources.

The revelation comes two weeks after The Washington Post disclosed that the Justice Department had last year seized phone records belonging to three of its journalists who covered the Russia investigation. CNN said the Justice Department informed Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr in a May 13 letter that it had obtained phone and email records covering a two-month period between June 1 and July 31, 2017.

"CNN strongly condemns the secret collection of any aspect of a journalist's correspondence, which is

clearly protected by the First Amendment," CNN President Jeff Zucker said in a statement published by the network. "We are asking for an immediate meeting with the Justice Department for an explanation."

The Justice Department confirmed that the records were formally sought last year, though it did not reveal anything else about the investigation and what story might pertain to. CNN said that in the two-month period listed in the letter, Starr's reporting included stories on Syria and Afghanistan and coverage of U.S. military options in North Korea that were being offered to President Donald Trump.

"The records at issue relate to 2017 and the legal process to seek these records was approved in 2020," Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said in a statement. "Department leadership will soon meet with reporters to hear their concerns about recent no-

tices and further convey Attorney General (Merrick) Garland's staunch support of and commitment to a free and independent press."

The letter indicated that the government sought records of Starr's Pentagon phone extension, the CNN Pentagon booth phone number and her home and cellphone records. The government also said it had obtained "non-content information" from her emails, which would include information about the senders and recipients but not the actual content of the communications.

The Justice Department under former Attorney General Eric Holder announced revised guidelines for obtaining records from the news media during criminal leak investigations, removing language that news organizations said was ambiguous and requiring additional levels of review before a journalist could be subpoenaed. The updated policy was



In this May 14, 2013, file photo, the Department of Justice headquarters building in Washington is photographed early in the morning.

Associated Press

a response to outrage among news organizations over Obama administration tactics seen as overly aggressive and hostile toward newsgathering. Bruce Brown, the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said Thursday that the phone record seizure amounted to a "big story that just got bigger." "That a journalist from another news organization had communications re-

records seized by the Trump Justice Department suggests that the last administration's efforts to intrude into reporter-source relationships and chill newsgathering is more sweeping than we originally thought," Brown said. He called for the Justice Department to explain exactly what happened and "how it plans to strengthen protections for the free flow of information to the public." q



New York Attorney General Letitia James addresses a news conference at her office, in New York, Friday, May 21, 2021. Associated Press

NY AG: Cuomo probe will 'conclude when it concludes'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York Attorney General Letitia James said Friday that an ongoing investigation surrounding Gov. Andrew Cuomo will "conclude when it concludes," and said she has ignored criticism from his top aide that the probe is politically motivated. James told reporters the ongoing investigation into whether the governor sexually harassed women, including female employ-

ees, is "very thorough and comprehensive." Her office is also probing whether Cuomo illegally used state resources to write and promote his COVID-19 leadership book, for which the Democrat is set to earn over \$5 million. "I'm not going to respond to any personal attacks on me and/or my office," James said at her New York City office Friday. "I deal with over 1,800 employees who are professional. We come to work each and every day focusing on the law and the facts, and politics stops at the door. "Anything other than that, obviously I ignore." Cuomo is facing allegations that he abused his power by inappropriately touching and sexually harassing women who worked with him or met him elsewhere. Accusations range from groping under a woman's shirt and planting unwanted kisses, to asking unwelcome personal questions about sex and dating — including whether an employee would have sex with an older man. James launched the sexual harassment probe in early March, after Cuomo initially tried to choose who would lead the investigation into the allegations. Cuomo then allowed James to choose two independent attorneys to lead it instead. For weeks, Cuomo and his supporters in the state Legislature have called for the public to await the results of James' investigation before judging the governor. By mid-April, state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli issued a letter authorizing James to open a criminal inquiry into Cuomo's book deal as media outlets reported on aides who helped edit drafts and print manuscripts. Her office later acknowledged an "ongoing investigation." Cuomo's spokesperson and senior adviser Rich Azopardi blasted DiNapoli's letter and claimed James and DiNapoli, both Democrats, have expressed interest in unseating Cuomo. □



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Palestinians see victory in Gaza truce as Israel warns Hamas

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— Palestinians rallied by the thousands Friday after a cease-fire took effect in the latest Gaza war, with many viewing it as a costly but clear victory for the Islamic militant group Hamas. Israel vowed to respond with a “new level of force” to further hostilities.

The 11-day war left more than 250 dead — the vast majority Palestinians — and brought widespread devastation to the already impoverished Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. But the rocket barrages that brought life to a standstill in much of Israel were seen by many Palestinians as a bold response to perceived Israeli abuses in Jerusalem, the emotional heart of the conflict.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned against further attacks, saying, “If Hamas thinks we will tolerate a drizzle of rockets, it is wrong.” He vowed to respond with “a new level of force” against aggression anywhere in Israel.

The Israeli leader, who is facing criticism from his hawkish base for ending the offensive prematurely, said Israel had done “daring and new things, and this without being dragged into unnecessary adventures.” He added that Israeli forces had caused “maximum damage to Hamas with a minimum of casualties in Israel.”

He said Israeli strikes killed more than 200 militants, including 25 senior commanders, and hit more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) of militant tunnels. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad militant group have only acknowledged 20 fighters killed.

The Gaza Health Ministry says at least 243 Palestinians were killed, including 66 children, with 1,910 people wounded. It does not differentiate between fighters and civilians. Twelve people were killed in Israel, all but one of them civilians, including a 5-year-old boy and 16-year-old girl.

The truce faced an early test when clashes broke out between Palestinian protesters and Israeli police



Palestinians inspect the destroyed building housing the offices of The Associated Press and other media, after it was hit last week by Israeli airstrike, in Gaza City, Friday, May 21, 2021.

Associated Press

following Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a flashpoint holy site in Jerusalem sacred to Jews and Muslims. Clashes there earlier this month were one of the main triggers for the war.

It was unclear what sparked Friday’s violence. Police fired stun grenades and tear gas, and Palestinians hurled rocks after hundreds took part in a celebratory demonstration in which they waved Palestinian and Hamas flags and cheered the militant group. Israeli police said they arrested 16 people. Protesters also clashed with Israeli troops in parts of the occupied West Bank, which has seen violent demonstrations in recent days linked to Jerusalem and Gaza.

Thousands took to the streets of Gaza as the cease-fire took hold at 2 a.m. Young men waved Palestinian and Hamas flags, passed out sweets, honked horns and set off fireworks. Celebrations also broke out overnight in east Jerusalem and across the occupied West Bank. Israel captured all three territories in the 1967 war and the Palestinians want them for their future state.

An open-air market in Gaza City that was closed throughout the war reopened, and shoppers stocked up on fresh tomatoes, cabbage and watermelons. Workers in orange

traffic vests swept up rubble from surrounding roads. “Life will return, because this is not the first war, and it will not be the last war,” said shop owner Ashraf Abu Mohammad. “The heart is in pain, there have been disasters, families wiped from the civil registry, and this saddens us. But this is our fate in this land, to remain patient.”

There was little to celebrate in the hard-hit northern town of Beit Hanoun. Residents, many of whom had lost loved ones, surveyed wrecked homes.

“We see such huge destruction here, it’s the first time in history we’ve seen this,” said Azhar Nsair. “The cease-fire is for people who didn’t suffer, who didn’t lose their loved ones, whose homes were not bombed.” Rescue workers were still recovering bodies from areas that had been too dangerous to enter. Five were collected Friday in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis, including that of a 3-year-old, the Red Crescent emergency service said.

Like the three previous wars, the latest round of fighting ended inconclusively. Israel claimed it inflicted heavy damage on Hamas but once again was unable to halt the rockets.

Hamas also claimed victory but faces the daunting challenge of rebuilding in a territory already suffer-

ing from high unemployment and a coronavirus outbreak, and from years of blockade by Egypt and Israel.

The fighting began May 10, when Hamas militants in Gaza fired long-range rockets toward Jerusalem. The barrage came after days of clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli police at Al-Aqsa. Heavy-handed police tactics at the compound, and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers had inflamed tensions.

Competing claims to Jerusalem, one of the most volatile issues in the decades-old conflict, have repeatedly triggered bouts of violence.

The cease-fire was brokered by neighboring Egypt after the U.S. pressed Israel to wind down the offensive. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken plans to visit the region “to discuss recovery efforts and working together to build better futures for Israelis and Palestinians,” the State Department said. Hamas and other militant groups fired over 4,000 rockets at Israeli cities. Dozens landed as far north as the bustling commercial capital of Tel Aviv.

Israel, meanwhile, carried out hundreds of airstrikes. A senior Israeli army official said Israel hit 1,600 “military targets” during the 11-day conflict.

The United States, Israel’s closest and most important ally, initially backed what it said was Israel’s right to self-defense against indiscriminate rocket fire. But as fighting dragged on and deaths mounted, the Americans increasingly pressured Israel to stop the offensive.

President Joe Biden welcomed the cease-fire. He said the U.S. was committed to helping Israel replenish its supply of interceptor missiles and to working with the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority not Hamas to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Netanyahu faced heavy criticism from members of his hawkish, nationalist base. Gideon Saar, a former ally who leads a small party opposed to the prime minister, called the cease-fire “embarrassing.”

Itamar Ben Gvir, head of the far-right Jewish Power party, told Israeli TV’s Channel 13 that, with the cease-fire, the government “spat in the face of residents of southern Israel,” and said it should topple Hamas and reoccupy Gaza.

In a potentially damaging development for the Israeli leader, the Palestinian militants claimed Netanyahu had agreed to halt further Israeli actions at the Al Aqsa Mosque and to call off the planned evictions of Palestinians in the nearby Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. An Egyptian official said only that tensions in Jerusalem “will be addressed.” □

Some 58,000 Palestinians sought shelter in crowded U.N. schools amid a coronavirus outbreak. Thousands returned to their homes as the truce took hold.

The fighting dealt another blow to Gaza’s already decrepit infrastructure. The small coastal territory, home to more than 2 million Palestinians, has been under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade since Hamas seized power from forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007, confining his authority to parts of the West Bank. □

Spain returns 6,600 to Morocco, families look for loved ones

Associated Press

CEUTA, Spain (AP) — Officials in Ceuta, a Spanish enclave in North Africa, have been flooded with calls from Moroccan parents after hundreds of children and teenagers were swept up in a diplomatic storm between Spain and Morocco over migration. Mabel Deu, a spokesperson for the autonomous city, said Friday a hotline set up Thursday had received 4,400 calls from desperate relatives seeking information.

So far, authorities have confirmed 438 unaccompanied minors were among more than 8,000 people who arrived in Ceuta from Morocco between Monday and Wednesday by scaling a border fence or swimming around it. Social service workers were checking the ages of many more young people who are in shelters or roaming the streets, Deu said.

"Our goal is that they reunite with their parents as soon as possible because we understand the anguish and worry of many families who don't know where their children are," she said. Morocco has already taken back over 6,600 of the migrants who made it to Ceuta, Spanish authorities said.



Migrants take shelter inside an abandoned building in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, Friday, May 21, 2021.

Entering the city put them in European Union territory, and hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers attempt to reach Europe from Africa each year.

Many of the worried relatives calling the hotline are just a few miles across the border, in the Moroccan city of Fnideq. But stepped-up vigilance along an 8-kilometer-long (5-mile-long) border and the overwhelmed resources on the Spanish side making the reunions difficult.

Fatima Zohra told The Associated Press that other girls pushed her 14-year-old daughter to cross the border without her mother's knowledge. Zohra said she spotted her daughter in photos from inside the warehouse where Spanish officials are keeping the minors while they process them.

"Please help me find my daughter," she said. "We always provided for her. We have money. Her father works in a private compa-

ny."

Spain is legally obliged to care for young migrants until their relatives can be located or until they turn 18. Authorities are deciding where in the Spanish mainland to distribute 260 of the minors already in Ceuta before the latest surge.

But reunions are also proving difficult to bring about, Deu said. Some children told social services they really want to stay, even against their parents' wishes. Others can't get home

soon enough.

"I want to leave this place. I don't want Ceuta. I want Morocco," AP reporters heard a girl crying at a one center

Save The Children, an international non-profit, said speeding up the return of the minors should be done on a case-by-case basis, upholding the child's safety and interests above everything else.

The humanitarian crisis started as Morocco and Spain were at odds over Spain agreeing to provide COVID-19 care to a prominent Sahrawi leader fighting for the independence of Western Sahara, a territory once under Spanish control that Morocco annexed in the 1970s.

While blaming Spain for creating a diplomatic dispute by hospitalizing the leader of the Polisario Front, Moroccan authorities have denied that they encouraged this week's mass migrant crossings to Ceuta.

Witnesses and reporters, including AP's, have described seeing the border guard relax controls. But at least two Moroccan officials have separately attributed the massive surge to favorable weather or troops being tired following Ramadan celebrations. □

Nicaragua government opponent meets with prosecutors

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — Nicaraguan journalist Cristiana Chamorro, daughter of a former president and a potential challenger to President Daniel Ortega, met with authorities Friday regarding allegations of money laundering.

The previous day, national police raided the offices of the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation for Reconciliation and Democracy, the nongovernmental organization named after her mother and led by Chamorro until recently, as well as the offices of the independent news outlet run by her brother Carlos Fernando Chamorro.

Cristiana Chamorro met with officials at the Interior



Cristiana Chamorro, former director of the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation for Reconciliation and Democracy, and daughter of a former president, arrives at the public Ministry where she was called for a meeting to explain alleged "inconsistencies" in financial reports filed with the government between 2015 and 2019 in Managua, Nicaragua, Friday, May 21, 2021.

Associated Press

Ministry Thursday and on Friday entered the public prosecutor's offices. Her lawyer was not allowed to

accompany her.

"I come with my head held high to defend Nicaraguans, because this is not

an accusation against Cristiana Chamorro; it is an accusation against all Nicaraguans who want democracy and want a change in the system in the next elections," she said, surrounded by journalists. Several political opposition leaders said Friday police kept them from leaving their homes to go support Chamorro.

The Nicaraguan government announced Thursday that Chamorro was under investigation for alleged financial irregularities and money laundering related to the foundation.

Cristiana Chamorro has not ruled out the possibility of running for president in the Nov. 7 elections. In January, she stepped down from her role at the foundation.

A month later, it closed its operations in Nicaragua after passage of a "foreign agents" law that aimed to track foreign funding of organizations operating in the country. She said the new accusations are Ortega's attempt to keep her out of the race, in which he is seeking his fourth consecutive presidential term.

Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council and congress have been narrowing the space for maneuver for the country's opposition.

On Tuesday, the council cancelled the legal status of the Democratic Restoration Party, which was expected to potentially be a vehicle for an opposition coalition bid against Ortega. □

Burkina Faso's unofficial truce with jihadis may be fraying

DJIBO, Burkina Faso (AP)

— When the jihadis started coming to the town in northern Burkina Faso just to buy food and not kill people nervous residents didn't know what to think. "We don't know if it is a pause in fighting or if it will resume. We are just waiting," said one resident of Djibo, the arid, remote town regarded as the current epicenter of the country's extremist violence. While Burkina Faso's government never confirmed negotiating with Islamic extremists, others said the lull in fighting earlier this year was a sign that a cease-fire of sorts had been reached with the militants blamed for thousands of deaths in recent years.

Now, though, there are growing signs that that truce might be short-lived. While Djibo remains relatively calm, fighting has surged across the country. More than 50 people died in multiple attacks in a single week in April, including two Spanish journalists and an Irish conservationist. The attacks have continued in May.

Suspected jihadis killed 15 people attending a baptism near the town of Tin-



Men who were jailed for years on suspicion of being affiliated with Jihadist organisations but later released without charges, walk in Djibo town, Burkina Faso, Feb. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

Akoff, marking the fourth time this month that the area has been targeted by militants.

"While some factions might be negotiating and sticking to the agreements, others are not and could torpedo these negotiations," said Assane Diallo, mediation advisor for The Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, a Swiss-based organization.

Islamic extremist violence already has left thousands dead and displaced more

than 1 million people in this landlocked country that had long been spared the kind of jihadi violence that destabilized neighbors Mali and Niger.

Before presidential elections in November, Burkina Faso's government began quietly negotiating with the jihadis wreaking havoc in the country, according to a diplomat, aid workers, security analysts and two men who say they were militants before the tenta-

tive cease-fire.

The secret talks with at least one faction of jihadists active in Burkina Faso the al-Qaida-linked group known as JNIM took place near Djibo, the current epicenter of the violence.

The deal included the jihadis allowing peaceful elections to proceed last year in exchange for the release of about 100 prisoners who had been detained for years on accusations of links to extrem-

ists. The arrangement also allowed for the militants to move freely in Djibo so they could visit the market and family members, according to multiple sources familiar with the talks.

Initially the tentative truce appeared to be paying off: There was a nearly 50% reduction in clashes between security forces and the jihadis from November to January compared to the three months prior, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

Still, there were early signs that the government's mixed messages were undermining the deal. One man who said he'd fought alongside the jihadis said there was confusion about whether anything had really changed.

"Even if we all put down the guns and come back to the community, we don't have anything to do. We don't have jobs. The same army might say that we are all delinquents and start arresting us again," said the 27-year-old, who spoke on condition that AP use his 'nom de guerre,' Mohamed Taoufiq, citing fear of government recriminations. □

China defiant after EU warning over trade agreement

BEIJING (AP) — China on Friday rejected European Parliament demands that it lift sanctions against European Union legislators in order to save a trade deal

between the two sides. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the sanctions were justified and demanded that the European side "immediately

stop interfering in China's internal affairs (and) abandon its confrontational approach."

"The unreasonable sanctions imposed by the EU have led to difficulties in China-EU relations. That is what China does not want to see, and the responsibility does not lie with the Chinese side," Zhao said at a daily briefing.

The European Parliament warned China on Thursday it won't ratify a long-awaited business investment deal as long as sanctions against European Union legislators remain in place. China made its sanctions move after the EU, Britain, Canada and the United States launched coordinated sanctions against officials in China over human rights abuses in the far

western Xinjiang region.

Among those targeted were five members of the European Parliament — Reinhard Butikofer, Michael Gahler, Raphael Glucksmann, Ilhan Kyuchyuk and Miriam Lexmann.

The investment accord was agreed to in principle in December and needs lawmakers' approval to take effect. In addition to the lifting of sanctions, legislators said they will take into account the human rights situation in China when deciding whether to approve the deal. The EU hopes the agreement, known as CAI, will create new investment opportunities for European companies in China by ensuring they can compete on an equal footing, and help correct a trade imbalance.

China is now the EU's second-biggest trading partner behind the United States, and the bloc is China's largest trading partner, according to EU figures. China and Europe trade on average over 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) a day.

Zhao reiterated China's stance that the agreement is a "balanced and win-win deal that benefits both sides, rather than a gift or favor bestowed by one side to the other."

"China has always been sincere in promoting cooperation between the two sides, and we hope that the European side will move in the same direction as us, with less emotional outburst and more rational thinking, and make the right decision in their own interests," Zhao said. □



In this March 22, 2021, file photo, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell speaks during a media conference after a meeting of EU foreign ministers at the European Council building in Brussels.

Associated Press

Caribbean Shark Coalition Launched to Promote Training, Impact, and Collaboration around shark protections in the Greater Caribbean Region

ORANJESTAD — Caribbean Shark Coalition Launched to Promote Training, Impact, and Collaboration around shark protections in the Greater Caribbean Region.

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) and Beneath the Waves (BTW) have launched the Caribbean Shark Coalition (CSC), an innovative, new platform to bring key stakeholders, researchers, governments and funders together to better collaborate and scale the impacts of science and policy within the entire Greater Caribbean region. Represented are over 45 new members from NGOs, governments, and local businesses from 24 countries, which have formally joined the CSC to build capacity around research, policy, and education efforts for these threatened species in the region. The Caribbean plays a key role in advancing the global target of protecting

30% of the world's ocean by 2030. Under this vision, the CSC has three primary goals, which will be carried out through collaborative work and CSC-member projects. Firstly, the CSC will foster collaboration in shark and ray research, policy, and capacity building for conservation among stakeholders, and provide opportunities for knowledge transfer and data synthesis. The CSC will also seek to explore ways in which transboundary protections can be made to better safeguard the long-term health of shark and ray populations. Finally, the CSC aims to promote a sustainable future for these species as well as the human livelihoods who depend on them, by engaging local businesses, stakeholders, and private sector corporations. "This is a historic moment for marine conservation efforts in the Caribbean," says Tadzio Bervoets, Director of DNCA and a founding team member at the CSC.

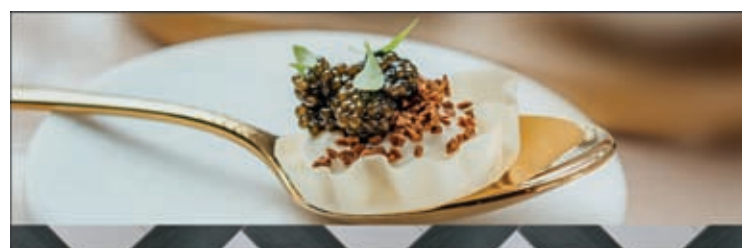
"We have been calling for transboundary marine protections in these waters, as we know that these apex predators are connecting ecosystems, reefs, fisheries, and nutrients across Exclusive Economic Zones. The CSC will help us to find and address critical knowledge gaps around sharks and rays in the region, and support collaborative research projects." Dr. Austin Gallagher, Chief Scientist of Beneath the Waves, shares, "Over the years we've had so many stakeholders from throughout the region express their interest in getting engaged in basic research or education around sharks, but a lack of resources or technical or operational expertise limited them from taking action. He adds, "We hope The Coalition can play a role in creating that friendly, open, and supportive community those voices have been looking for." CSC members represent a collection of experts from NGOs, local communities, intergovernmental organizations and governments, academia, and policy institutes, and local businesses, working together to advance the study and conservation of sharks and rays found in the waters of the Greater Caribbean. The CSC will provide cross-disciplinary training, region-wide assessments, and will issue grants to CSC-member projects. The CSC will represent the interests and goals of members and, more broadly, sharks and ray species of the Caribbean at the UN (UNEP-CEP and the Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocols of the Cartagena Convention), IUCN-Caribbean, CITES, CMS, CBD, and other international gatherings. For information visit www.caribbean sharks.co Photo credit: Sami Kattan

organization created to safeguard nature in the Dutch Caribbean through supporting Protected Area Management Organizations. DCNA seeks to consolidate knowledge and bridge funding gaps for conservation within the Dutch Caribbean. DCNA maintains a central pillar in support, knowledge sharing and communication between the Dutch Caribbean islands.

About Beneath the Waves

Founded in 2013, Beneath the Waves is an ocean NGO using cutting-edge science to advance scientific discovery and cata-

lyze ocean policy, with a focus on threatened species and ecosystems. Led by a group of established and emerging leaders in the marine conservation world, they have initiatives focusing on the conservation of biodiversity and highly migratory species such as sharks throughout the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Pacific Ocean. Their work has generated nearly 100 scientific publications, numerous first-ever discoveries, and they have been involved in the study and conservation of nearly 1 million square kilometers of marine protected areas. □



infini
by Urvan Croes

Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvan Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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About Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance is a nonprofit



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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For today we received a wonderful picture from Adam and Wendy, who wrote:

"Aruba to us is... a Blessed Island to have so many Kind and Courteous people that live on such a Incredible Island. Thank you Aruba for making this one of my Best Vacation Ever." □

MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

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Marine News

SAVANETA — Defense on Aruba is the responsibility of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Netherlands Military forces that protect Aruba include the Royal Netherlands Navy, the Netherlands Marine Corps and the Netherlands Coastguard. There is also a small indigenous "Arubaanse Militie" (ARUMIL) of about platoon strength. All forces are stationed at Marines Barracks Savaneta. Here are some activities that have been happening lately with the marines.



The Governor of Aruba, his Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, brought a working visit on to the Savaneta Marine Barracks (MSKSAV) as part of an inauguration ceremony in which eight soldiers took their oath and

pledged in front of their relatives as the last step to officially join the ARUMIL. Prior to this moment, the military followed a six-month training in Curaçao. After their successful completion last March, they received their caps. After a short further training in Aruba they completed the process with the swearing-in. By taking the oath of affirmation the military sworn allegiance to the King, obedience to the laws and submission to the military discipline. After the ceremony, Governor Boekhoudt spoke briefly with the sworn in soldiers, after



which he was escorted to the A-1 for departure from the barracks. His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt together with LTKOL-MARNS Art van Beekhuizen, Commander of the Savaneta Marine Barracks, issued a Royal Decree (KB) to two Aruban marines, Richard F. Kelly and Daniel M. Vrolijk. Richard F. Kelly received his Royal Decree as part of his promotion to the military personnel of Aruba, from First Lieutenant of the Marines of Aruba (ELNTMAR-NAR), to Captain of the Marines of Aruba (KAPT-

MARNAR). Daniel M. Vrolijk also received his decree as part of his appointment as an officer in the military personnel of Aruba in the rank of Second Lieutenant of the Marines of Aruba (TLNT-MARNAR). After the official presentation, the Governor of Aruba held an audience with Mr. Van Beekhuizen. During the audience, Governor Boekhoudt was informed about various subjects, including the trajectory Professionalization Caribbean Militia and the Social Training trajectory. □



Visitors honored at Casa del Mar

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberly Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely couple **Mr. Paul & Mrs. Pam Hartley** whom have been visiting the island

for over 11 years consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate went to couple Mr. Peter & Mrs. Susan Brown whom have been visiting the island for over 25 years consecutively! It is incredibly nice to see that Aruba has so many loyal visitors and that they still choose to travel to Aruba even during these unprecedented times!

This wonderful group of people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly



people whom have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort presented the cer-

tificates to the honorees, handed over some presents, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

Lui Bee Farm Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Honey bees wild and domestic perform about 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day. Grains are primarily pollinated by the wind, but fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by bees. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops — which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition — are pollinated by bees.

Seeing the importance of saving the bees Aruba is not staying behind. We have many people interested in saving and protecting these bees. Many are practicing Apiculture which consists of saving and protecting the bees with the sole purpose to produce honey locally. One of these persons is the well-known on the island Luis Winterdaal, founder of Lui Bee Farm Aruba.

Luis Winterdaal was born and raised in Aruba on October 10th 1954 in the town of Savaneta. A person with great love for the nature and all animals, Luis started working with bees when he was only 15 years old. At that time there was no special equipment to use when working with bees such as face masks and smokers. Luis used to make his own face protection equipment from wired screens sewed to a t-shirt. He also cut out the legs of his jeans to use them to protect his arms and as smoker he used cookie cans.

14 years ago Luis met three young people who love bees and saw

the importance that these bees have for humanity: Giles, Jourdan and Suyen. With much passion and all the patience in the world Luis taught these three youngsters everything they needed to know about bees. From there started the idea of the farm. To save and protect these bees. They all try to demonstrate and teach the people of Aruba the importance these bees have. Their vision is to save as much bees as possible from being killed. For more than 45 years Luis has been helping out people of Aruba to solve any type of bee problems at their homes. Luis together with Giles, Jourdan and Suyen have been all over the island bringing their passion and knowledge in order to save these bees.

Organic honey

At Lui Bee farm Aruba they have special bee boxes which are filled with bees that were rescued from different houses and locations all around the island. Not always when rescuing bees you will find honey. Sometimes you will find the wax with only baby bees and if you are lucky you will find wax filled with honey.

The honey from the boxes at their location are not being emptied every time. Why? Because of the lack of rain on the island, most of the time it's very dry and this can be very stressful for the bees. Why the stress? Because they have to make new wax and also in such dry period they use honey to feed themselves to survive.

Honey that they produce and sell at the farm does not contain any chemicals. Their honey goes di-



rectly from the wax to the bottles. The whole process takes place at their own facility. You will encounter all types of color of honey on the farm from light to black honey. Since they depend very much on the water/rain for these bees to survive the production of see is not consistent. Lui Bee Farm wishes to someday be able to produce enough honey to distribute to the whole island. Honey is very beneficial to your overall health and is very important for the human being. Honey products are daily used for as medicine and in many beauty products.

Most of the time bees rescued from houses are in swarm or have been there for years. Common places to find bees are: under the roof, on the roof, ceiling, in trees, in tires, on the walls, bird cages, under containers even in septic tanks anywhere you can think of is possible. They have even been called several times by hotels to remove hives from a bedroom or from the rooftop.

At Lui Bee Farm they know how important these bees are for our environment therefore when assisting at removing these hives they will stay there until they find the 'queen'. She naturally is the most important for the production of the honey. Whenever they find her their job is done.

According to Luis bees in Aruba

are not aggressive. If you leave them alone and don't disturb them they won't attack you. Therefore Lui Bee Farm kindly requests you to help the bees by putting water around the house. Especially during dry seasons. These bees need as much flowers and water as possible in order to survive. Please do not kill them! To Lui Bee Farm a world without bees is like a desert without water. ☐

For more information call them at +297 593-6694, email luibeeefarmaruba@gmail.com or check their Facebook page Lui Bee Farm Aruba or follow them on Instagram @luibeeefarmaruba.



Ford CEO: Electric vehicle demand will transform industry

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) —

A new electric version of Ford's immensely popular F-150 pickup truck might just be the catalyst that hastens America's transition from gasoline to battery-powered vehicles.

Jim Farley, the company's new CEO, calls the introduction of an electric version of the nation's top-selling vehicle a watershed moment for Ford as well as for the auto industry. The new truck, called the F-150 Lightning and due in showrooms by next spring, will be able to travel up to 300 miles per battery charge and tow up to 10,000 pounds.

Yet Ford's commitment to the EV F-150 is hardly without risk. The company spent millions to develop the truck at a time when sales of electric vehicles remain minuscule — just 2% of the U.S. auto market. Many truck owners will be reluctant to switch from gasoline engines. And there's the distinct possibility that at least in the early months and perhaps years of production, automakers could run short of EV batteries and the scarce precious metals needed to make them.

The Associated Press spoke recently with Farley about electric vehicle sales and a global chip shortage that has hindered auto production. The interview was edited for clarity and length.

Q: Why is the Lightning so important to Ford, and why are you offering an electric version before other models?

A: We're starting with our icons because we know the customers the best and we can surprise them with the best execution. But the real key is the scale. We sell 1.1 million (F-Series) units a year. So these customers really trust us. If there's a company who's going to take them into an electric future, it's Ford.

Q: You're at a base price of roughly \$40,000. With a \$7,500 federal tax credit,



Jim Farley, Ford Motor Company's chief executive officer, stands next to the company's new Ford F-150 Lightning, Wednesday, May 19, 2021, in Dearborn, Mich. Associated Press

will you be even cheaper than a gas-powered F-150?

A: It's going to be pretty close. It depends on the specifications. The vehicle is faster than a Raptor (F-150 high performance gas version.) It'll power your house for three days or a heck of tailgate. We have the latest interior technology, over-the-air updates. You could argue it's going to give the internal combustion product a heck of a run.

Q: How long do you think it will be until the majority of vehicles you sell are battery electric?

A: A lot of it will depend on government support, the infrastructure (charging stations) build-out, as well as a support for the purchase. We have a \$7,500 benefit still at Ford. So it depends on what happens with government policy, and whether that tips the scale for a lot of customers. It has in Europe. China is moving fast. We're totally sold out with the Mach E (Electric SUV). On the West Coast, it's already changed quickly. It'll be a matter of time before that sweeps across the country.

Q: You have said the global semiconductor shortage will halve your normal

production in the second quarter. Do you see that shortage ending this year?

A: These components are a high percentage of our build-of-material these days, and we can't really continue to run just-in-time inventory on components like this. It's a real game changer in how we look at our supply chain. We are seeing some positive indications from chip producers. The big change is the Renesas facility (a chip factory in Japan that was damaged by fire) coming back online. As that facility ramps up to 100%, we'll feel a lot more confident. So we're not through this. I'm not going to give any predictions about what the second half looks like.

Q: Does that 50% production loss figure for the second quarter change?

A: Certainly in the second half we see much less impact. We had about 200,000 units of lost production in the first quarter. The second quarter is going to be the most difficult. We see, conservatively, a couple of hundred thousand units of risk in the second half.

Q: You've mentioned that you may buy chips directly from the factories and and

stockpile them. Is this going to change the way Ford buys critical parts?

A: I really do think so. This is a really significant event. It's not really black swan events, Renesas is, but it's really more kind of dealing with the realities of a different supply chain focused on electronic components. Silicon is a big part of every vehicle. I do think that everything's on the table. We've also learned that you have to engineer flexibly for these components. You may have to have a design on the shelf in case something runs lean.

Q: You have said you may move from having huge inventories on dealer lots to an order-from-the factory business model?

A: Most of our customers do their shopping online now. We just are expanding our e-commerce platform. There are a couple of pieces that are now starting to come together. The first is a reservation system, so that people are more likely to order what they want versus going into the dealership and ordering off the inventory. We have to make it easier. We've done that. The next thing is, our order-to-delivery has to improve. The next thing is very large-scale remote pick-up

and delivery.

Q: Dealers say that people would embrace four weeks from order to delivery. Is that realistic?

A: That's about what we see in Europe. About 50% of our retail customers in Europe order their car. It's somewhere between four and six weeks. It all depends on how popular the model is. There's a big benefit for us on the cost side and marketing. But on the F-150, with millions and millions of combinations, we have to do a lot of complexity reduction to pull that off.

Q: Would I have to pay more for my F-150 because of this?

A: The whole system will be a lot leaner, and the company doesn't have to do the public advertising. There's a lot of efficiency gains that customers really don't benefit from today. There will be lower costs, which we'll pass on to the customers. It generally will not be a big change for customers. I just think they'll save a lot of time.

Q: Ford has plans to build its own electric vehicle batteries. Do you see these as being union plants, and will they pay as much as jobs now do at Ford powertrain plants?

A: Michigan is a good example, where we make the F-150. That's a UAW plant. VanDyke (in Sterling Heights, Michigan) is another one. They're making motors for the F-150 electric. The jobs are changing. We think that by working with the government and our UAW partners, we can secure American jobs as we move to e-mobility. It's critical for our country. It's critical for Ford. One of the real game-changers in this area is (battery) cell production. By in-sourcing cells, not just motors, power electronics, things like that, we have the opportunity to create more jobs.

And although the vehicles are 30%-plus more efficient to make, by in-sourcing batteries, we can offset that risk. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 37 Bird
1 Shipwreck on a
settings Canadian
7 Baseball's dollar
"Georgia 38 Tickled
Peach" 39 Post
11 Boxing 40 Some
combo runners

C	O	S	T	A		T	O	S	C	A
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Yesterday's answer

- 12 Car bar
13 Try hard
14 Life stories
15 Pollute
16 "Waiting for —"
17 Went fast
18 Serve a sentence
19 Noggin
21 Last letter, in London
22 Joke shop purchase
25 Puppy sound
26 Bassoon's cousin
27 Burger toppers
29 "Pygmalion" writer
33 Singer Rogers
34 Sculpting medium
35 Falco of TV
36 Safe haven
- DOWN**
9 Reformer Amelia
10 Outwitted 24 Piquant
16 One of the 25 Hicks
38 Tipped
18 Tries 30 Congress
finger-painting half
5 Ninny 31 Fury
6 Junior, to 20 Heavy 32 Hoe
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7 Explorer 22 Unspeci- 34 Big truck
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5-22

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

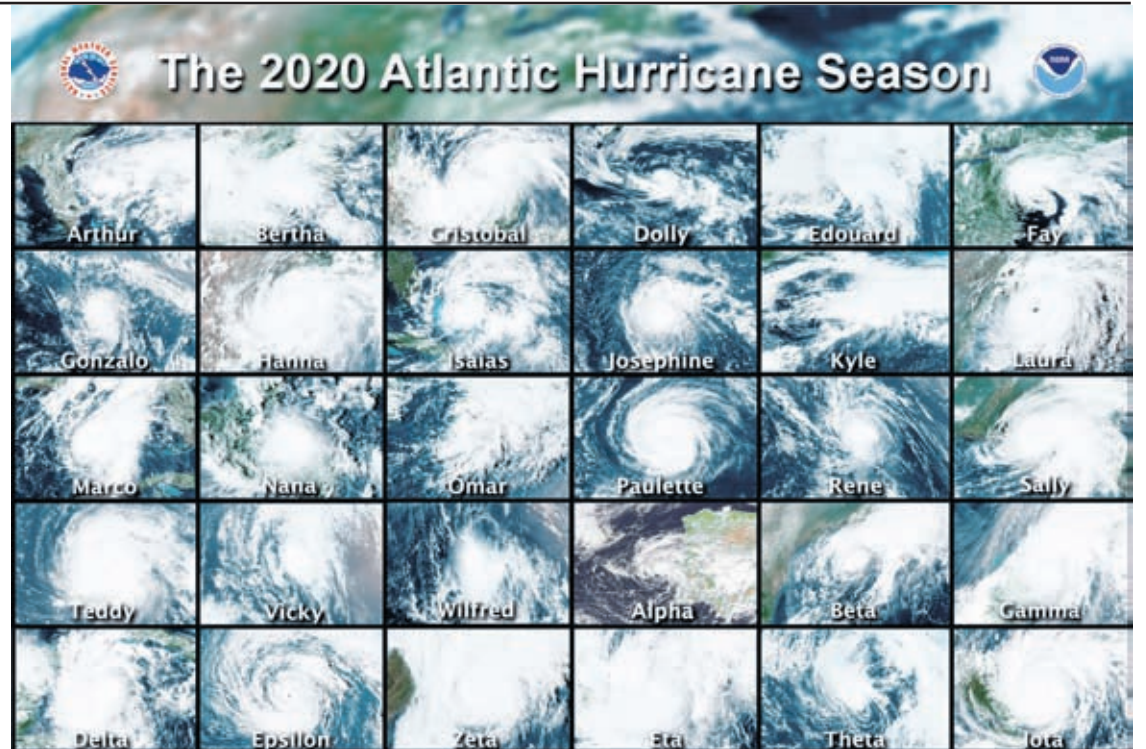
PX TPY PQA PXQIUP PQA

PYLX, QEH PX TPY PQA PYLX

PQA XZXONUPBEF

QOQKBQE LOYZXOK

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LOVE IS ALWAYS BESTOWED AS A GIFT — FREELY, WILLINGLY AND WITHOUT EXPECTATION. — LEO BUSCAGLIA



This combination of satellite images provided by the National Hurricane Center shows 30 hurricanes which occurred during the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season. According to a forecast by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released on Thursday, May 20, 2021, they expect another busy Atlantic hurricane season for 2021, but it won't be as crazy as the previous year's record breaker.

Associated Press

Experts predict busy Atlantic storm season but not like 2020

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

The Atlantic hurricane season will be busier than normal, but it's unlikely to be as crazy as 2020's record-shattering year, meteorologists said Thursday.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasted that the hurricane season, which runs from June through November, will see 13 to 20 named storms. Six to 10 of those storms will become hurricanes and three to five will be major hurricanes with winds of more than 110 mph (177 kilometers per hour), the agency predicted. Since 1990, a typical season sees 14 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes a climate normal that has increased in recent decades. There's a 60% chance that this hurricane season will be busier than normal and only a 10% chance it will be below normal, NOAA said.

Lead agency forecaster Matthew Rosencrans said the season looks to be busy because of warmer water, which fuels storms; reduced cross winds that decapitate storms; and more seeds of stormy weather coming off the coast of

Africa. There is also no El Nino weather event, the natural temporary warming of the central Pacific that squelches Atlantic hurricane activity, he said.

Atlantic waters are nearly 0.68 degrees (0.38 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal, which is not as hot as 2020 when they were 1 degree (0.56 degrees Celsius) above normal, Rosencrans said.

Last year, there were 30 named storms so many that meteorologists ran out of names and dipped into the Greek alphabet to identify them. There were 14 hurricanes last year, seven of them major.

Earlier this year, meteorologists decided to ditch the Greek alphabet after the normal list of names runs out, instead creating a special overflow list. Seven of last year's storms caused more than \$1 billion in damage. As if on cue, stormy weather popped up north-east of Bermuda this week, with the National Hurricane Center giving the system a 90% chance of becoming a named storm in the next five days. It would be called Ana and is likely to be short-lived and keep away from land. About half the years in the last

decade have had named storms before the June 1 start of hurricane season, Rosencrans said.

Several universities and private weather companies also make hurricane season forecasts, with all of them echoing NOAA's predictions. They predicted 16 to 20 named storms, seven to 10 hurricanes and three to five major hurricanes.

"The latest data and forecasts suggest a slightly more aggressive forecast for 2021 is in order, although still nothing close to what happened in 2020," said Todd Crawford, chief meteorologist at The Weather Company, which is forecasting 19 named storms and four major hurricanes. The Colorado State University forecast, which is the longest-running seasonal forecast, cited the same reasons as NOAA in predicting 17 named storms, eight hurricanes and four major hurricanes. It says there is a 69% that a major hurricane will hit somewhere in the U.S. coastline this season, which is higher than the average of 52% for the last century. It gives Florida and the Gulf coast a nearly 50-50 chance of being hit by a major hurricane. □

Vast Antarctic iceberg could drift through ocean for years

PARIS (AP) — A vast iceberg that broke off Antarctica earlier this month could drift through the ocean for several years before it breaks up and melts away, a scientist from the European Space Agency said Friday.

The iceberg, dubbed A-76, is more than 40 times the size of Paris, or about 73 times as big as Manhattan, making it the largest currently afloat.

It was first spotted by scientists at the British Antarctic Survey and confirmed by the U.S. National Ice Center using images taken by the European Space Agency's Sentinel 1A satellite.

Mark Drinkwater, a senior scientist at the space agency, said that while icebergs regularly calve from Antarctic ice shelves, the region where A-76 broke off had seen relatively little change in recent decades.

"It's become a poster child, obviously, and there'll be a lot of attention on it," he said of the 4,320 square-kilometer (1,668 square-mile) floating island of ice.

A-76 will eventually escape from the Weddell Sea around Antarctica and drift into the South Atlantic, but that journey could take years, Drinkwater said.

"We've seen icebergs that can last up to 18 years that have been tracked around Antarctica if they remain in relatively cold waters," he said. "But it's likely that once this thing gets ejected from the Weddell Sea out into the South Atlantic, it'll disintegrate fairly quickly." The even larger iceberg A-68 that calved from Antarctica's Larsen C ice shelf in 2017 disappeared by early this year.

Drinkwater said satellites have helped scientists keep track of the changes happening on the vast but largely uninhabited conti-



This handout image provided by the European Space Agency (ESA) shows a representation of the size of an iceberg has calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf, lying in the Weddell Sea, in Antarctica.

Associated Press

nent that would otherwise go unnoticed.

"The continent that everybody thinks of as a benign, frozen part of the world that never changes is actually very dynamic," he said, adding that increasing calving activity in parts of Antarctica monitored from space over the past 30 years can be attributed to climate change.

Antarctic ice shelves regularly lose large chunks to the sea even as fresh ice forms inland, a process that

Drinkwater compared to a bank account that's continually being paid into and withdrawn from.

"Parts of Antarctica are in arrears, and that's largely a consequence of increase in temperature or large calving events that have removed ice and destabilized the ice shelves themselves," he said. "Climate is responsible for these changes. And over the longer term, of course, it will have wide-ranging impacts in different locations

around Antarctica." □



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HBO revives 'In Treatment' with Uzo Aduba looking for truth

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ten years after the drama "In Treatment" signed off, the HBO show is back with a group of new patients and a new therapist, but a similar theme: Physician heal thyself.

Uzo Aduba takes over from Gabriel Byrne as the psychotherapist at the center of the show, now playing buttoned-down Dr. Brooke Taylor with a thriving practice but a whole lot of personal demons.

"The safest that she seems to feel is when she's in the room with her patients because that's the way she can feel control," says Aduba. "When she leaves the room, you get to see just how out of control and how much avoidance plays a part in her everyday life."

The show, which starts airing Sunday, has traded the previous episodes' Brooklyn brownstone for a chic and immaculate home in an affluent neighborhood in Los Angeles.

Shot during the pandemic, it leverages the times by incorporating social distancing and setting all the therapy sessions inside the home of Aduba's character.

"Even if a therapist has a home office, there's usually division between their life and home life," she said.



This image released by HBO shows Uzo Aduba in a scene from "In Treatment."

Associated Press

"Because of pandemic, both the audience and her patients get an even larger view of who she really is, just by the mere fact that they enter her home."

Aduba's Taylor has three patients: "In the Heights" actor Anthony Ramos plays a troubled home health aide, John Benjamin Hickey plays a white-collar criminal angry at the world and Quintessa Swindell portrays a wealthy teen with an overbearing grandmother.

Ramos said he leapt at the chance of portraying a complex Latino character who embraces talk therapy. The actor, who said he's personally benefited from therapy, hopes he can remove any stigma from seeking help.

"I remember I told someone in my family I was going to therapy and they were like, 'Well, what's wrong?'" he said. "I was like, 'A lot. What do you mean what's wrong? Life is hard.'"

Ramos' character is quarantining with a wealthy family to look after one of their members. He and Aduba's doctor bond over their love of Gabriel García Márquez. He's having trouble sleeping, but she worries about prescribing medication. "This work — it's not sexy, it's not fast," she tells him.

Unlike the therapist's other patients, Ramos' character has his sessions on Zoom, a challenging prospect for

both actors. Ramos and Aduba were in different rooms on set.

"I was afraid that it wouldn't be as connective an experience, but it actually was in the end when we did it," said Aduba. "I could see a world where teletherapy is now just a part of the therapeutic experience."

Over time, the immaculate-looking, straight-arrow of Dr. Brooke Taylor slowly deflates as viewers learn she is wounded by loss — but hiding it.

"She's excellent at her job, but we're seeing a little bit of the fissures of her not being at her best in terms of keeping out the outside and not bringing so much of it inside," said Aduba, who recently won her third Emmy in FX's "Mrs. America." An interesting dynamic develops in which even as she guides her patients to their truths, they also dig into hers. Did she grow up in privilege? What about her romantic life?

"Her patients see her, too. You know what I mean?" she said.

"They may not see the whole of her, but there are aspects of her life that they are also able to see and are not inaccurate."

Filming started in November, and each episode took two days of work. The tough schedule and subject were lightened somewhat by occasional socially distanced dance parties in front of the actors' trailers during lunch breaks.

Ramos gave credit to Aduba for setting a professional and caring tone on the set. "It helps when you're doing it with somebody like Uzo. She's so beautiful in the way she articulates herself, in the way she treats the work," he said. "When your lead actress is asking you what you need, that's a gift."

He said he hopes "In Treatment" can be more than just gripping weekly drama. "Hopefully this show can give somebody the courage to take that small step to making a phone call to find somebody that they could talk to," he said. "I think it can help us all." □

Legends come out for hip-hop museum groundbreaking



Nas, left, and LL Cool J attend the Universal Hip Hop Museum groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in the Bronx borough of New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Musical luminaries including Nas, LL Cool J, and Fat Joe came out Thursday to the birthplace of hip-hop for a ground-breaking ceremony to launch the capital campaign for the new Universal Hip Hop Museum. They joined a slew of politicians in the Bronx, where the now-global cultural force that is hip-hop has its roots.

"Hip hop made me believe that anything was possible," said LL Cool J. "This was like the first time where I felt like, 'Wow, it's

possible to be powerful. It's possible to be somebody. It's possible to have meaning in this world.'" The museum is part of a \$349 million mixed-use project along the waterfront in the South Bronx. The first phase of the development, called Bronx Point, will provide affordable housing and public open space. It also is slated to include cultural and community-focused programming, including the permanent home of the Universal Hip Hop Museum. □

Playoff rematch with Heat offers extra motivation for Bucks

By STEVE MEGARGEE

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo acknowledges the incentive that comes from opening the postseason against the Miami Heat, who eliminated Milwaukee in the second round last year.

"Obviously everybody on the team has a little bit of extra motivation," the reigning two-time MVP said. Miami beat the top-seeded Bucks 4-1 and went on to win the Eastern Conference title last year before losing to the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals. Miami is seeded sixth and Milwaukee third in the East heading into the rematch that begins Saturday.

"Totally different," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "The year is different. Both teams are different. ... It's just a totally new challenge. We feel grateful that we have this opportunity to be in the playoffs and compete against them. They're a great team."

The Bucks had the NBA's best regular-season record in 2018-19 and 2019-20, but they blew a 2-0 lead to Toronto in the Eastern Conference finals in 2019. Those two early exits turn up the pressure on a franchise seeking its first NBA title since 1971.

"I believe that pressure is earned," said Antetokounmpo, who injured his ankle early in Game 4 and didn't play the rest of last year's Heat series. "If I wasn't who I am today and I didn't work as hard as I work and I didn't focus on the game, I didn't love the game and I didn't compete the way I am, we wouldn't be talking about pressure. Pressure is earned, and I love it."



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo drives past Miami Heat's Trevor Ariza during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, May 15, 2021, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

The Bucks responded to last year's exit by rearranging the pieces complementing Antetokounmpo and two-time All-Star forward Khris Middleton. The most notable addition was Jrue Holiday, who averaged

19 points and shot 11 of 21 from 3-point range against the Heat during the regular season.

Milwaukee won two of its three regular-season meetings with Miami, but Heat star Jimmy Butler didn't play in any of them and two of those games took place in December. Butler averaged 23.4 points, 5.8 rebounds and 4.4 assists in last year's Heat-Bucks series.

He's ready to try knocking out the Bucks once again. "You don't hold anything back," Butler said. "You leave it all out there. Best

time of year for it."

DIFFERENT TYPE OF REMATCH

Both teams have made notable changes since their last playoff meeting

Only five of the 11 guys who played at least a minute for the Bucks in last year's Heat series remain on the roster: Antetokounmpo, Middleton, Brook Lopez, Donte DiVincenzo and Pat Connaughton.

Miami no longer has Jae Crowder, who averaged 15.2 points and shot 22 of 51 from 3-point range against the Bucks in last year's playoffs.

SURGING FOES

The Heat were 7-14 early in the season and 22-24 and stuck at .500 in mid-April. But they enter the playoffs on a tear after winning 12 of their last 16 regular-season games. Milwaukee had won eight of nine games before closing the regular season with a 118-112 loss at Chicago in which it rested all its starters.

GIANNIS VS. HEAT

Very few teams do a better job defensively against Antetokounmpo than the Heat.

Antetokounmpo averages 18.6 points on 50.4% shooting in regular-season and playoff games against Miami. Only one team (Golden State, 18.4) holds him to a lower scoring average.

Miami holds a 17-14 series edge over the Bucks in games in which Antetokounmpo played.

SPO VS. BUD

There is no opening round series that pits coaches who have gone head-to-head more often than this one between Milwaukee's Mike Budenholzer and Spoelstra. They've coached against each other 35 times, including playoffs. Spoelstra has an 18-17 edge.

The Denver-Portland series also has coaches that have opposed one other on 35 previous occasions. The Nuggets' Michael Malone holds an 18-17 edge over the Blazers' Terry Stotts.

Nizzolo finally wins Giro stage on 8th attempt; Bernal leads

VERONA, Italy (AP) — Riding the Giro d'Italia for the eighth time in his career, Giacomo Nizzolo finally claimed his first stage win in his home Grand Tour on Friday, while Egan Bernal's overall lead remained unchanged.

Nizzolo won a mass sprint at the end of the entirely flat 198-kilometer (123-mile) 13th stage from Ravenna to Verona.

"Finally I've got a stage victory at the Giro," Nizzolo said.

The route paid tribute to the poet Dante Alighieri on the 700th anniversary

of his death in Ravenna. The unchallenging leg also gave riders a break before hitting the high mountains over the weekend.

"Finally we had an easy day," Bernal said.

Bernal, the 2019 Tour de France champion, remained 45 seconds ahead of Aleksandr Vlasov and 1 minute, 12 seconds ahead of Damiano Caruso.

Edoardo Affini surged ahead early in the sprint but Nizzolo rushed past him just before the line.

Affini finished second and Peter Sagan came third.

"I decided to launch a

long sprint," Nizzolo said. "I chose to risk staying too long in the wind rather than wait for too long behind other riders with the chance of being blocked. My choice paid off."

Nizzolo, who rides for Team Qhubeka Assos, is the reigning European and Italian road race champion. A big challenge awaits on Saturday with a punishing climb to Monte Zoncolan concluding the 14th stage.

"It would be special to win atop the Zoncolan tomorrow but that means controlling the whole peloton so I would be happy if I just



Italy's Giacomo Nizzolo, center, celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the thirteenth stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Ravenna to Verona, Italy, Friday, May 21, 2021.

Associated Press

keep the pink jersey," Bernal said.

Phil being Phil: Mickelson takes lead in PGA Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. (AP)

— The image has become familiar over the years. Phil Mickelson holes a birdie putt and drops that left fist in tempered celebration as he makes his run up the leaderboard in a major.

This was Friday at the PGA Championship, and he kept right on going until he was in the lead.

Even at age 50.

Tentative on the toughest stretch at Kiawah Island as he started dropping shots by missing putts, Mickelson began to look ageless Friday in the PGA Championship with brilliant iron play and a pair of big birdies that led to a 31 on the front nine of the Ocean Course and a 3-under 69.

He had a two-shot lead among early starters, and if his lead held, he would be the oldest player to lead after any round of a major since 59-year-old Tom Watson had the 54-hole lead at Turnberry in the 2009 British Open.

"It's really fun, obviously, to make a putt on the last hole, finish a round like that and then to have that type of support here has been pretty special," Mickelson said.

The last birdie was from just inside 25 feet on the ninth hole, with cheers that sounded louder than the limited gallery allowed and carried plenty of hope that Lefty could become golf's oldest major champion on one of the tougher tracks. The record belongs to Julius Boros, who was 48 when he won the 1968 PGA Championship.

Branden Grace had a flawless round and was in the lead until he hit his tee shot into the water on the par-3 17th and made double bogey, and then made bogey on the closing hole



Phil Mickelson hits his tee shot on the 15th hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course Friday, May 21, 2021, in Kiawah Island, S.C.

Associated Press

for a 71.

Mickelson was being interviewed on TV when Grace fell back with his double bogey, and this development immediately was conveyed to him. He was not overly excited.

"If you were to tell me that Sunday night, I'd really enjoy that," Mickelson said. "But right now there's a lot of work to do. ... The fact is I'm heading into the weekend with an opportunity and I'm playing really well and I'm having a lot of fun doing it."

Mickelson has not won on the PGA Tour in three years. His last major championship

was the 2013 British Open at Muirfield. He no longer is among the top 100 in the world.

But he's Phil Mickelson, who has spent a career leaving fans wondering what he'll do next.

"I think he has the bit between his teeth," said three-time major champion Pádraig Harrington, who played alongside Mickelson for two days. "I think he believes he can do it in these conditions. He's not here to make the cut."

The cut appeared to be out of reach for Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player who now has missed

consecutive cuts in majors since his Masters victory in November. He had an eagle and a birdie over his last three holes and still shot 74. Mickelson was at 5-under 139.

Grace and fellow South African Christiaan Bezuidenhout (70) were two shots behind, followed by a group at 2-under 142 that included former U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland (72) and Corey Connors, the 18-hole leader who didn't make a par until his eighth hole and shot 75.

Still to play in the afternoon were Rory McIlroy and Justin Thomas, hopeful of making the cut. And with the wind picking up, hopeful of surviving.

"It's fun in a kind of a sick way," Ian Poulter said. He was 6 under through 12 holes, the best start of the week, when he noticed a video board behind the 13th green that posted his

score and suggested he was in range of the course record.

It's a wonder Poulter's eyes didn't pop out of his head. "I just started laughing to myself like, 'Who in the world would write that and put that on a board with that last five holes to play?'" Poulter said.

He bogeyed four of his last six, which feature the four hardest holes on the course, for a 70.

Cameron Tringale was two shots off the lead, playing early in the afternoon, when he took a triple bogey on the par-3 14th, a 10 on the 16th hole, a quadruple-bogey 7 on the 17th and a bogey on the 18th. He shot 48 on the back nine.

"It's not very enjoyable out there because it's so hard, and every hole is a disaster waiting to happen," British Open champion Shane Lowry said. "So it's very stressful and there's a lot of anxiety and a lot of nerves and a lot of tension out there, but you just have to get on with it and try and hit the best shots you can, and that's all I've been doing."

Lowry managed a 71, including a par save on the par-5 16th when he hit his drive so far right it was on the beach.

Mickelson had no such issues. His mistakes came mostly on the greens, and they were only bogeys, which are expected at Kiawah Island in this wind. Mickelson has shown glimpses in recent weeks, but he is concerned about losing focus. This had his attention.

He also has a 2-wood in the bag that helps him control his accuracy, at least with the wind at his back. Mickelson missed only three fairways. "If he can keep it straight and hit it the way that he's been hitting, he's going to be around on Sunday for sure," Jason Day said after playing with him for two rounds. "With Phil, you kind of get some off-the-map drives that make it very interesting, and he's kept it very, very straight over the last two days." □



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